

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 2, 5 - 17, and 20 - 35 remain in the application.

Allowable subject matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 3, 7, 18 and 22 would be allowable if rewritten to include the limitations of their base claims. Accordingly, Applicant has amended claims 1, 16, 31 and 35 to include the subject matter of claims 3 and 18, and has canceled claims 3 and 18. Claim 24 has also been amended in view of the amendment to claim 16, and a minor grammatical error in claim 20 has been fixed.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8-17, 20, 21, 23-31 and 35 as being obvious in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,661,788 to Angle and U.S. Patent No. 6,614,764 to Rodeheffer; and rejected claims 32-34 as being obvious in view of Angle, Rodeheffer and of U.S. Patent No. 6,631,419 to Greene. Applicant submits that these rejections are now moot in view of the incorporation of allowable subject matter into the claims.

Conclusion

In light of the remarks made above, Applicant submits that all pending claims overcome the cited references and allowance of this application is requested.

The Examiner should note that the undersigned submits this response as per MPEP § 405 under the authority of 37 CFR 1.34.

No fee is believed due for this submission. However, Applicant authorizes the Commissioner to debit any required fee which may be now due and not otherwise provided for with this electronic submission from **Deposit Account No. 501593 in the name of Borden Ladner Gervais LLP** for which the undersigned is authorized. The Commissioner is further

authorized to debit any additional amount required, and to credit any overpayment to the above-noted deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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